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Monday, March 23, 1953

I went this morning to see René Mayer at the Matignon. Our conversation covered the points mentioned in the following telegram. (See Telegram Attached).

The EDC Interim Committee convened again this morning to deal with the protocols, and made ~~very~~ considerable progress. This afternoon Frank Southard came to see me. He has been sent over by the Treasury to attend the OEEC meetings. Treasury, I am glad to say, is taking a great interest in all these international matters. I went to the EDC meeting this afternoon where the protocol regarding Article 13 of the EDC Treaty was discussed inconclusively. This relates to the withdrawal of forces in cases of urgency or gravity arising in overseas possessions. It presents great difficulties because the Treaty text requires the agreement of SACEUR to such withdrawal. The French would prefer to have it mandatory on SACEUR to approve such requests. Tonight Tommy and André de Staercke came to dinner with me. We talked of nothing but the EDC Treaty, except for an excursion into the wine field. De Staercke probably has the finest wine cellar in **an exceptionally** Belgium. He is ~~very~~ able man of 39, an intimate personal friend of Churchill and Salazar, and very influential in Belgium. He has been foremost at the Interim Committee meetings in trying to bring about an accord on the protocols. We talked ~~very~~ frankly about Van Zeeland's position concerning ratification and André will see him tomorrow morning ~~and~~^{to} attempt to persuade him to move ahead.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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